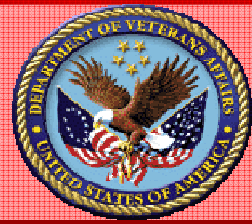


JBVA TODAY!

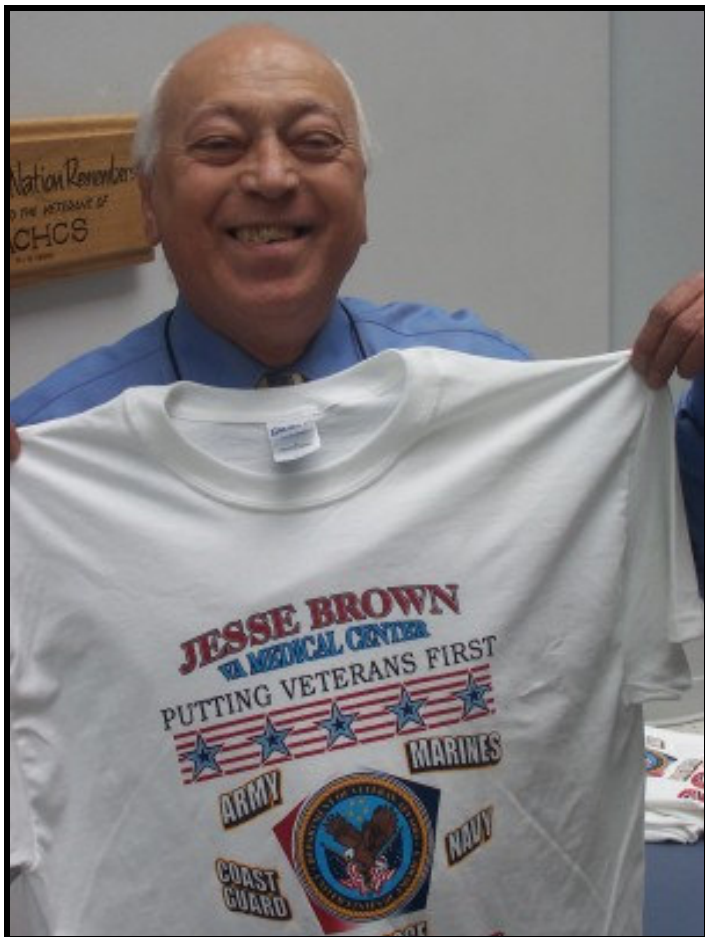
A weekly newsletter from the Jesse Brown VAMC, Chicago, IL

May 23, 2005



National Moment of Remembrance and Chicago Memorial Day Parade Pay Tribute to Veterans this Weekend

“ONE NATION, ONE MOMENT” – Memorial Day, 3 p.m. – Congress formally established the National Moment of Remembrance in an effort to put “memorial” back into Memorial Day. This act of national unity asks all Americans to pause for one minute of reflection wherever they may be at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day to honor those who died in service to our Nation. Wherever you are, pause to honor our fallen during the National Moment of Remembrance this Memorial Day, May 30, 3 p.m. local time. For more, go to www.remember.gov.



Chicago boasts the largest Memorial Day parade in the nation and, once again, veterans and staff from JBVAMC are invited to participate as part of our annual “Walk-A-Thon”.

The parade steps off Saturday, May 28 at 12 noon and marches down State Street from Wacker Drive to Van Buren Street. It includes more than 25,000 participants and 250 marching units including military units, high school bands, the JROTC and veteran's groups from across the State of Illinois.

Participants in the Walk-A-Thon can either meet at the parade site or take a shuttle bus leaving the JBVA main campus at 10:30 that morning. The bus will also be used in the parade, so disabled veterans can participate.

The cost is only \$10, which includes a Walk-A-Thon t-shirt; however, there is an additional charge for extra large sizes. Proceeds go to the VA Voluntary Service. For information, contact **Mohsen Modaressi**, Walk-A-Thon chairperson (pictured at left), at extension 53989 or **Eloise Garth**, Recreation Service, at extension 56114

This Week at JBVA

Tuesday, May 24

JBVAMC will be one of the stops made by the “Run for the Wall” motorcycle club as part of its annual cross-country trip from California to Washington, DC, where similar groups converge from across the nation to hold a Memorial Day rally each year.

Approximately 60 members of “Run for the Wall” will arrive at JBVA around 11:45 a.m. They will visit with patients on the wards for approximately one hour. At 1:30 p.m., they will be guests of honor at a reception in the auditorium, which will include entertainment by the Jesse Brown Chorus. All staff and veterans are invited to attend the reception and meet the members of “Run for the Wall.”

Most of the “Run for the Wall” members are also veterans. One of their purposes for this annual cross-country trip is to call attention to veterans who are former POW’s or MIA. The group’s motto is “Veterans Riding for Those Who Can’t.”

For more information on the group, check out their web site at www.runforthewall.org

Thursday, May 26

JBVA will celebrate National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May with a program on Thursday, May 26 at 11:30 a.m. in the JB auditorium. Cultural presentations will include Japanese Drummers and Filipino Dance and Song.

The keynote address will be delivered by Ms. Santosh Kumar, founder and Executive Director for Metropolitan Asian Family Services, a non-profit agency. Ms. Kumar is listed in the 2002 – 2005 editions of the National Register’s Who’s Who in Executives and Professionals.

A variety of ethnic refreshments will be served. All employees are encouraged to attend. The program is sponsored by JBVA’s Asian American Pacific Islander Program Committee.

The committee was also responsible for installing the Avenue of Flags in the JB atrium. It includes the flag of each country that is included in National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day Holiday.

Tuesday, May 31

Join us as we extend our best wishes to two long-term service chiefs who are retiring from the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. A retirement party for **Donald K. Wood**, M.D., Chief of Surgical Service, will be held in the Director’s Conference Room (Room 2443) from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. It will be followed by a farewell tea for **Surinder Nand**, M.D., Manager, Mental Health Service Line, in the JBVA auditorium from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT



“Putting the Memory Back in Memorial Day” is the theme of this year’s PBS National Memorial Day Concert dedicated to remembering the sacrifices of America’s veterans. The 2005 National Memorial Day Concert will be broadcast live on PBS from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol on Sunday, May 29, from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Eastern Time. You can check local scheduling at <http://www.pbs.org/memorialdayconcert/airdates.html>.

This year's concert commemorates the 60th Anniversary of Iwo Jima and honors our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will feature actors Joe Mantegna, Gary Sinise and Charles Durning, singer and actress Vanessa Williams, country performer Trace Adkins, opera singer Harolyn Blackwell, General Colin Powell and other guests, along with conductor Erich Kunzel and the National Symphony Orchestra. The Concert can also be heard in stereo over National Public Radio and will be seen overseas by U.S. military personnel in more than 135 countries on American Forces Radio and Television Network. The concert Web site is a good source of background information about Memorial Day and offers a detailed list of related links. Check it out at <http://www.pbs.org/memorialdayconcert/>.

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Want to know more about Memorial Day? Check out the VA Memorial Day Web site at <http://www1.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/index.htm>.

The Jesse Brown VA Compliance Program

by Deborah Brown, Compliance Officer

This week (May 22 – 28) has been designated by Congress as the first National Corporate Compliance and Ethics Week. To commemorate this occasion, I would like to spotlight the medical center's Compliance and Business Integrity Program in this week's newsletter.

What is Compliance and Business Integrity (CBI)?

CBI is an oversight function designed to assist VHA in complying with applicable laws, regulations, policies and standards of business practices. The Compliance Program is designed to add value to the Veterans Health System by identifying and reducing organizational risks, primarily as they relate to documentation, coding and billing.

As Compliance Officer, I work under the Office of the Medical Center Director. A multidisciplinary Compliance and Business Integrity Committee, which meets monthly, assists in the resolution of compliance issues and serves in an advisory role.

One of the major roles of the Compliance Officer is to work with the health care providers to ensure that our documentation and coding is accurate and complete in order to maximize third party revenue generation and provide good quality of care to our veterans. Each year, the medical center has a billing and collection goal that must be met and the Compliance Program plays an integral role in this process. This is very crucial as VA continues to operate in an environment of tight budgetary constraints and dwindling resources.

However, every employee can play an active role in the Compliance Program by adhering to the Office of Government Ethics, standards of conduct for federal employees and by "Doing the Right Thing...At the Right Time...In the Right Way."

Any questions concerning the Compliance Program, please contact Ms. Deborah Brown, Compliance Officer, at extension 56878.



“How May I Help You?” Campaign Update

The Nursing Staff members listed below were “Star” recipients the past two weeks. Thanks to those of you who submitted names, the campaign is off to a good start, but we are just beginning. The campaign will now include Nursing Staff members recommended by letters of appreciation, Customer Satisfaction Surveys and individual patient acknowledgements for providing excellent service. We continue to encourage employees to acknowledge nursing staff for a job well done and providing a helping hand to others.

Deserving employees can be recognized on the VISTA e-mail system by sending the information to **G.HOW MAY I HELP YOU**

It takes only a few minutes of time to recognize deserving employees this way. Please remember to be specific, include the date and unit, and spell the staff member’s name correctly. We appreciate the assistance of all those that participate.

“How May I Help You?” Recipients (May 9 – 20)

Lakeside CBOC

LSU

Tom Arvia, Nurse Manager

Zenaida Demadara

Outpatient Clinics

Mary Joseph - 2 stars

Jessie Brown VAMC

8N

Brenda Rhodes

Tracy Powell

8S

William Aviles

Primary Care

Nettie White – 2 stars

Anna Ortiz – 2 stars

Diane Pyatt

Danyeld White

Lillie Geater

Phyllis Miller

Kenneth Reed

Ronay Williams

Observation. Unit

Lucila DiMaano

Emergency Room

Mercedes (Diaz) Belbias

Jessica Vega

Rachel White

Evelyn Ramos - 2stars

Eugene Bettendorf

Charles Frances

Triage

Carol Lockett

Bobbi Carter

9N

Marlene Hudson

6N

Marlene Galbreath

Elizabeth Bohling, NP

Interventional Radiology

Pearly Reed

Lourdes Khairassame



Would you like to receive this newsletter every Monday? It is sent automatically to all JBVAMC employees with MS Outlook/Exchange, but anyone with an e-mail address can also subscribe for delivery to their personal computer. Just visit the VISN 12 internet web site at www.vagreatlakes.org to subscribe. Employees can also access the “VISN 12” link on the JBVAMC web page, click on “Employee Resources” and scroll down to “subscriptions” to register for the newsletter.



Five members of the Chicago City Council toured the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center on May 17. In this photo (from right), **Shirley Warren-Merritt**, Nurse Manager, and **Paula Steward**, Associate Director for Patient Care Services, talked about services offered in the Specialty Clinics to Aldermen James Balcer (11th Ward), Ed Smith (28th), Manny Flores (1st), Ariel Reboyras (30th) and John Pope (10th). They were joined by William Schmutz, Executive Director of the Veterans Advisory Council for the Chicago Commission on Human Relations (not pictured).

JBVA Today is published weekly for the employees, patients, volunteers and friends of the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. Articles of interest are welcome and should be submitted to the JBVAMC Office of Public Affairs (Mail Point 00PR) or by e-mail to raymond.leber@med.va.gov or by calling (312) 569-6402 or extension 56402.

The editor reserves the right to use and edit contributed articles. Submission deadline is the Wednesday prior to the week of publication.

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